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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/520,232	07/11/2005	Uwe Habisreitering	3926.127	5103

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EXAMINER

EL ARINI, ZEINAB

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1746

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/26/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/520,232

Applicant(s)

HABISREITINGER ET AL.

Examiner

Zeinab E. EL-Arini

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/31/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

2. This application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b). An abstract on a separate sheet is required.
3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 1, paragraph 2, lines 6, 10, "precharacterizing clause of claim 1", and "precharacterizing clause of claim 9", and on page 2, paragraph 5, "the feature of claim 1", and on page 4, paragraph 9, "the feature of claim 9" are confusing terms.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: on page 11, paragraph 22, "27" has been recited, however "27" is not shown in the drawings. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If

the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In the claims "positioning system " and "rough positioning system" are indefinite term.

In claim 1, line 10, " at least one direction of movement (24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34)", and at line 16, "at least one axis of movement (24, 26, 28)" are indefinite and confusing term. At line 18, "predeterminable tolerance window" is indefinite term.

In claims 5, 6, 10, 21, and 25-27, "and/ or" is indefinite term.

In claim 6, line 2, "the changing" and at line 4, "the cleaning operation" are without proper antecedent basis.

In claim 8, lines 9-10, "at least in one direction of movement (24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34)" is indefinite and confusing term.

In claim 10, line 2, "the maximum", and at line 4, "the geometry" are without proper antecedent basis.

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In claim 16, "at least one axis of rotation (30, 32, 34)", and in claim 17, "movement (24, 26, 28)" is indefinite term.

In claim 20, line 3, "the free" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 95/04203 (WO'203).

Re. claims 1-27, WO'203 discloses a method and device for cleaning a surface of a component (12) using cleaning device (1), wherein the component surface is cleaned by a cleaning head (13) that can be moved by a positioning device whilst generating pressure to press the cleaning head onto the component, the positioning device has a rough positioning system (7, 8, 9) and a fine positioning system (11), and the cleaning head is moved to a force-controlled manner by the fine positioning system in one direction of movement. See the document in general, and Figs. 1-6.

The reference discloses all limitations with the exception of the cleaning head has three-dimensionally extending cleaning surface and at least one stop shoulder whose cleaning stop surface can be moved frontally onto an edge of the component whilst

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generating pressure, the cleaning head being moved along at least one axis of movement by a fine positioning system within a predetermined tolerance window.

It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to use the process and device taught by WO'203 for cleaning the surface as claimed. This is because changing the shape and the direction of movement of the cleaning head depends on the shape of the surface to be cleaned, see page 4, line 21- page 5, line 6, page 7, lines 19-24, and page 8, lines 11-17, and lines 24-26.

Re. claim 28, WO'203 does not teach cleaning the vehicle body as claimed.

It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to use the device taught by WO'203 to clean the vehicle body, because the reference discloses that the equipment can be adjusted to suit any task which calls for surface treatment in a precise manner, see page 8, lines 24-26.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zeinab E. EL-Arini whose telephone number is (571) 272-1301. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Zeinab El-Arini
Zeinab E. EL-Arini
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1746

ZEE
6/20/07